

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 29, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program Final EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA 136)
Modification to March 15, 2004 Memo

TO:
Mickey Carter
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWU-4

Proposed Action: SMC-02 Diversion Elimination @S-23 Pump Screen – Eliminate a diversion along Morgan Creek, provide fish screen, remove a fish barrier, improve irrigation system and improve water quality

Project No: 1994-015-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App.): 4.6 Sprinkler Irrigation; 4.10 Conveyance: Pipeline; 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens; 4.25 Consolidate/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams

Location: Morgan Creek, trib to Salmon River, Custer County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund IDFG to: 1. Eliminate the SMC-02 Morgan Creek diversion, 2. Install an upgraded control structure at S-23 to supply additional water from the S-23 diversion, 3. Expand the S-23 pump and sprinkler to accommodate additional irrigation previously served by the Morgan Creek 02 diversion, 4. Modify and lower the pump intake to prevent cavitation, and 5. Extend the Dunff sprinkler system mainline to water land that is now gravity irrigated by the Morgan Creek 02 diversion. These actions are intended to: 1. improve flows and natural stream conditions in Morgan Creek by using the more abundant water from Salmon River for local irrigation, 2. preclude fish from entering the irrigation ditch, 3. remove obstructions to fish in the project reach of the creek, 3. enhance fish passage, 4. enhance downstream migration, 5. reduce water temperature in Morgan Creek, 6. consolidate two diversions into one, 7. conserve water by converting from gravity irrigation to sprinkler irrigation, and 8. reduce water usage by about 50%.

Analysis: Lynn Stratton, Screen Program Coordinator, with the IDFG Screen Shop, in Salmon, Idaho completed the NEPA compliance checklist. Information contained meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). The project conforms to the IDFG's goals, including the State's Fishery Management Plan, NOAA Fisheries' Salmon Recovery Plan, Bull Trout Recovery Plan, and FWS's Bull Trout Recovery Strategy. There are no several Endangered Species Act-listed species that could be in the project area: gray wolf (t), Canada lynx (t), bald eagle (t), grizzly bear (t), Snake River spring chinook salmon (t), Snake River steelhead (t), Snake River sockeye salmon, bull trout (t), and designated Critical Habitat for steelhead. There are no known listed plants in the project area. However, Mitchell Act Programmatic ESA Section 7 consultation was completed for all fish species administered by NOAA Fisheries. This consultation was concluded as per NOAA Fisheries letter of January 2000, and there is no termination date for this ESA authorization. Additionally, to comply with ESA, the IDFG also engaged in a Section 6 Cooperative Agreement (dated January 17, 1995) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that establishes

a cooperative program for the IDFG to carry out conservation activities to benefit applicable listed threatened and endangered species. This agreement includes the taking of species that must be consistent with this agreement, emergency provision as necessary, recordkeeping for the conservation of listed species, notification to the FWS of any change in circumstances, and other administrative and procedural provisions. This agreement remains in effect in perpetuity for all species under the FWS's jurisdiction.

A cultural resources survey of the project site was conducted by the U.S. Forest Service in March 2002, in collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and entitled, SMC-02 Diversion Elimination and S-23 Control Structure Project, Cultural Resources Survey Results. In his April 3, 2002 letter, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the project and deemed that no further cultural resource consultation was necessary and that the section 106 processes was concluded for the project.

The project is exempt from a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 404 permit under the Clean Water Act (FRR33 323.4(a)(3)). Coordination, consultation, and public information has been through the following: Salmon River Coalition, Natural Resources Conservation Service, NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Salmon Basin Watershed, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Model Watershed Technical Advisory Committee, U.S. Forest Service, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program Final EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and, 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required. The signed NEPA Compliance Checklist is located in the KEC-4 project files, as well as the NOAA Fisheries concurrence letter, Biological Assessment, Section 6 Cooperative Agreement, and State Historic Preservation Officer clearance dated April 3, 2002.

Carl J. Keller

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Fish and Wildlife Biologist

CONCUR:

/s/ Robert Beraud

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: March 30, 2004

cc: (w/o attachments)

Mr. Lynn D. Stratton, Screen Program Coordinator, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 1336, Salmon, ID 83467